

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 5-12 are pending in the application.

Specification and Claims

Minor changes have been made to the specification to place it in better form for U.S. practice.

Further, minor changes have been made to the pending claims, without affecting the scope thereof, to place them in better form for U.S. practice.

Applicants note that, in claim 1, lines 5-6, "a light axis" has been amended to --an optical axis--. This limitation is supported by the specification, for example, at page 25, line 2 and claim 2, lines 2-3 of the present application, as filed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buelow, II et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,554,456) in view of Kojima (JP 2001-249405) and further in view of Wedell (U.S. Patent No. 5,535,111). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Buelow, II et al. discloses a lens that condenses the outgoing light emitted from the arc tube to other than the second reflector portion by referring to the statements in col. 3, lines 55-59 of Buelow.

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Buelow, II et al. merely states, in col. 3, lines 54-59:

FIG. 2 shows a lighting system 20 that is similar to lighting system 10 (FIG. 1) but which includes conditioning optics 30 between coupling device 12 and target area 14. Due to the typically high spatial uniformity in light intensity and color, the conditioning optics can often comprise a single lens . . . and does not disclose or suggest that the conditioning optics 30 “condenses all of the outgoing light not reflected by the second reflector portion, such that the condensed outgoing light is directed to the predetermined condensed spot,” as recited in claim 1. This feature of the present invention is shown at least in Figs. 1-6 and 9 of the present application.

The Examiner relies on the Kojima reference to show that a reflector having a first reflector portion formed with a spherical surface centered at a light generation point of the arc tube on a rear side from the arc tube as a boundary, and a second reflector portion formed with an ellipsoid being formed in front of the boundary of the arc tube, and the outgoing light emitted from the arc tube is reflected by the first and second reflector portions so that the reflected light reaches a predetermined condensed spot is known in the art.

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Kojima states, in paragraph [0021]:

Further, an auxiliary reflecting mirror 5, as an auxiliary reflector, having a spherical surface arranged such that the light source 1 becomes the focus point is disposed . . .

Therefore, even assuming that the reflector 3 of Kojima corresponds to the “first reflector portion” and the auxiliary reflecting mirror 5 corresponds to the “second reflector portion” of the present invention, which Applicants do not admit, the outgoing light emitted from the light source 1 and reflected by the auxiliary reflecting mirror 5 would not reach “a predetermined condensed spot outside the reflector,” as recited in claim 1 because the reflected light would simply be directed towards the light source 1.

The Examiner relies on the Wedell reference to show that forming a lens with a material that will not deteriorate under a high temperature atmosphere is known in the art.

In view of this, even assuming that Examiner's interpretation of the foregoing references is reasonable, which Applicants do not admit, Buelow, II et al., Kojima, and Wedell, taken singly or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the "reflector" and the "lens" of the present invention.

Claims 2, 5, 8-10, and 12, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buelow, II et al. in view of Kojima and further in view of Wedell, and further in view of Roberts et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,200,005). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 7, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(c) Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buelow, II et al. in view of Kojima and further in view of Wedell, and further in view of Lapatovich (U.S. Patent No. 6,566,817). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11, indirectly dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi, Reg. No. 40,417 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,


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